
By: **Senators Dyson and Middleton, Middleton, and Miller**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2005

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 15, 2005

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission to Study Southern Maryland Transportation Needs**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission to Study Southern Maryland
 4 Transportation Needs; providing for the membership and staffing of the
 5 Commission; requiring the Commission to coordinate with the Tri-County
 6 Council's Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee; requiring the
 7 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland to provide technical and staff
 8 support for the Commission; requiring the Commission to study and make
 9 recommendations with regard to certain aspects of transportation in certain
 10 areas of the State; prohibiting members of the Commission from receiving
 11 certain compensation but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;
 12 requiring the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to the
 13 Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for
 14 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Commission to Study
 15 Southern Maryland Transportation Needs.

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
 17 MARYLAND, That:

18 (a) There is a Commission to Study Southern Maryland Transportation
 19 Needs.

20 (b) The Commission consists of the following ~~18~~ 19 members:

21 (1) the President of the Senate of Maryland, or the President's designee;

22 (2) the Speaker of the House of Delegates, or the Speaker's designee;

23 (3) the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;

- 1 (4) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's
2 designee;
- 3 (5) the representative to the U.S. Congress from the 5th district of
4 Maryland, or the representative's designee;
- 5 (6) one county commissioner from St. Mary's County selected by the St.
6 Mary's County Commissioners;
- 7 (7) one county commissioner from Charles County selected by the
8 Charles County Commissioners;
- 9 (8) one county commissioner from Calvert County selected by the
10 Calvert County Commissioners;
- 11 (9) one member of the Prince George's County Council selected by the
12 Prince George's County Council;
- 13 (10) one member of the Anne Arundel County Council selected by the
14 Anne Arundel County Council; ~~and~~
- 15 (11) the two senators and six delegates representing State legislative
16 districts 28 and 29; and
- 17 (12) one representative of the private sector who specializes in bus rapid
18 transit.

19 (c) The Commission shall elect a chairman and vice chairman of the
20 Commission at its first meeting.

21 (d) The Commission shall coordinate with the Tri-County Council's Regional
22 Infrastructure Advisory Committee.

23 (e) (1) The State agencies represented on the Commission shall provide staff
24 for the Commission.

25 (2) The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland shall provide
26 technical and staff support for the Commission.

27 (f) A member of the Commission:

28 (1) may not receive compensation; but

29 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
30 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

31 (g) The Commission shall:

32 (1) review the study prepared by the Maryland Department of
33 Transportation regarding mass transit in Southern Maryland under Chapter 594,
34 Acts of 1998, the Southern Maryland Regional Transportation Strategy, the MD

1 5/U.S. 301 Transit Service Staging Plan, and any other relevant mass transit studies
2 and plans;

3 (2) study the Southern Maryland rail transit alternatives, including a
4 light rail transit system in the Maryland Route 5 corridor from White Plains to
5 Branch Avenue;

6 (3) study the current and future impact of traffic congestion in Southern
7 Maryland, including traffic levels on roads including U.S. Route 301 and Maryland
8 Routes 2/4, 4, 5, 210, 228, 235, and 260;

9 (4) make recommendations on potential strategies, including roadway
10 improvements and mass transit, including light rail transit to reduce traffic
11 congestion on the roads specified in item (3) of this subsection and throughout the
12 Southern Maryland region;

13 (5) study and make recommendations regarding the amount of funding
14 necessary to implement traffic congestion reduction strategies in Southern Maryland;

15 (6) assess the barriers to implementing roadway improvements and
16 mass transit, including light rail service, in Southern Maryland and make
17 recommendations to address those barriers; and

18 (7) make recommendations for potential funding mechanisms to
19 implement traffic congestion reduction strategies in Southern Maryland.

20 (h) The Commission may:

21 (1) conduct site visits to view rail transportation systems in Maryland;

22 (2) request information from representatives of CSX Corporation
23 relating to existing rail lines in Southern Maryland;

24 (3) include in its study those communities in Prince George's County
25 that lie directly adjacent to St. Mary's and Charles counties and which might be
26 impacted by the Commission's recommendations; and

27 (4) hold public hearings to receive comments from interested parties.

28 (i) The Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
29 Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General
30 Assembly on or before November 1, 2006.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
32 July 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June
33 30, 2007, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
34 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

